

#AreYouKiddingMe?

“By age 3,
a child living in poverty
will hear 30 million
fewer words than a child
growing up in a
college-educated home.”

--Betty Hart and Todd Risley



Young children are vulnerable to the long-term effects of poverty. According to The TMW Center for Early Learning and Public Health at the University of Chicago, **at as young as nine months of age, infants born into poverty score lower on cognitive development tests than their more affluent peers.** This imbalance triples by age 2.

Encouragingly, this thirty million word gap can shrink if all parents talk more about numbers, shapes and sizes with their infants and toddlers— even before they can talk back.



Enriched home language environments and back-and-forth conversation encourage language development and create a strong foundation for school and life.

The
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Movement**
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